

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT NO. 25X1

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 13 August to 15 September 1953

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 9 October 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. The following air activity was observed at Koethen airfield between 13 August and 15 September 1953:

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13 August. There was intensive air activity by swept-back jet fighters throughout the day. Eleven MiG-15 and U-MiG-15s took off between 6:15 p.m. and 6:17 p.m. and landed between 7:18 p.m. and 7:22 p.m.

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Individual flights by swept-back jet fighters were made between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1

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20 August. There was intensive aircraft including dives. At 5 p.m. the field that the swept-back jet fighters dived at an angle of 60 to 70 degrees, pulled out of dive at 300 to 400 meters above the ground, subsequently made a steep bank for exactly 3 minutes duration, and then made another dive. Shortly before 6 p.m., a sleeve target was released over the field. 1

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24 August. No activity was observed at the field between 11 a.m. and noon. The alert flight consisted of four aircraft. No other aircraft were observed at the field between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. 1

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25 August. At about 4 p.m., a swept-back jet fighter landed at the field. The weather was fair. The aircraft apparently was a U-MiG-15.

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1 September. Aircraft flying in two formations of fours, approached the field and landed individually until 6:20 p.m. Two additional formations of eight aircraft each landed at the field, one formation between 6:25 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. and the other between 6:40 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. At the same time, preparations for night flying activity was started.

2 September. No air activity was observed at the field between 5:45 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. There was warm and sunny weather.

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3 September. After 5:40 p.m. several landings were made by swept-back jet fighters

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5 September. No air activity or aircraft were observed at the field between 5 p.m. and 5:45 p.m.

6 September. There was no air activity between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.

7 September. Light air activity was conducted between 6 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

8 September. No activity was observed at the field between 4:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. The weather was fair.

14 September. Between 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., there was no air activity. The weather was sunny. About noon, the noise of aircraft engines was heard. During the morning, 20 MiG-15 and U-MiG-15s and 1 single-engine aircraft were observed near the hangars.

15 September. Between 10 a.m. and 11:45 a.m., no air activity was observed. There was a 5/10 overcast and good visibility. A total of 14 swept-back jet fighters including the alert flight were parked at the field.

2. A fishnet-type radar set which rotated was observed at the former AA gun emplacement in the northwestern corner of the field.
3. At 7:30 a.m. on 31 August, two hangars were closed, while the third hangar was open and vacant. At 8 a.m., four groups of soldiers were observed in front of the flight control station. At 10 a.m., swept-back jet fighters were being towed out of a hangar, however, no air activity was observed. On 8 September, no air activity was conducted except for the landing of a highwing monoplane at 9:55 a.m. and the take-off of this aircraft at 10:45 a.m. The aircraft headed south.
4. On 31 August and 8 September, soldiers wearing black-bordered blue epaulets practiced driving. [REDACTED]
5. On 21 August, five trucks carrying officers and EM with baggage moved to the railroad station. On 31 August, 20 officers were trucked to the station. The officers were flying personnel. [REDACTED] it was determined that the baggage was to be shipped to Zerbst. 2
6. Between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on 4 September, air activity by swept-back jet fighters was observed. The aircraft usually took off individually and sometimes in groups of twos. All the aircraft flew through the cloud base and headed east. Swept-back jet fighters towing sleeve targets were also observed.

25X1 [REDACTED] Comment. Koethen airfield is occupied by a fighter regiment with 30 to 35 MiG-15s. Some of the aircraft apparently were absent for an exercise from late August to early September 1953. The dives observed indicate that the pilots have reached a good status of training. [REDACTED]

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25X1 [REDACTED] Comment. The personnel probably were either detached or were being transferred.

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